

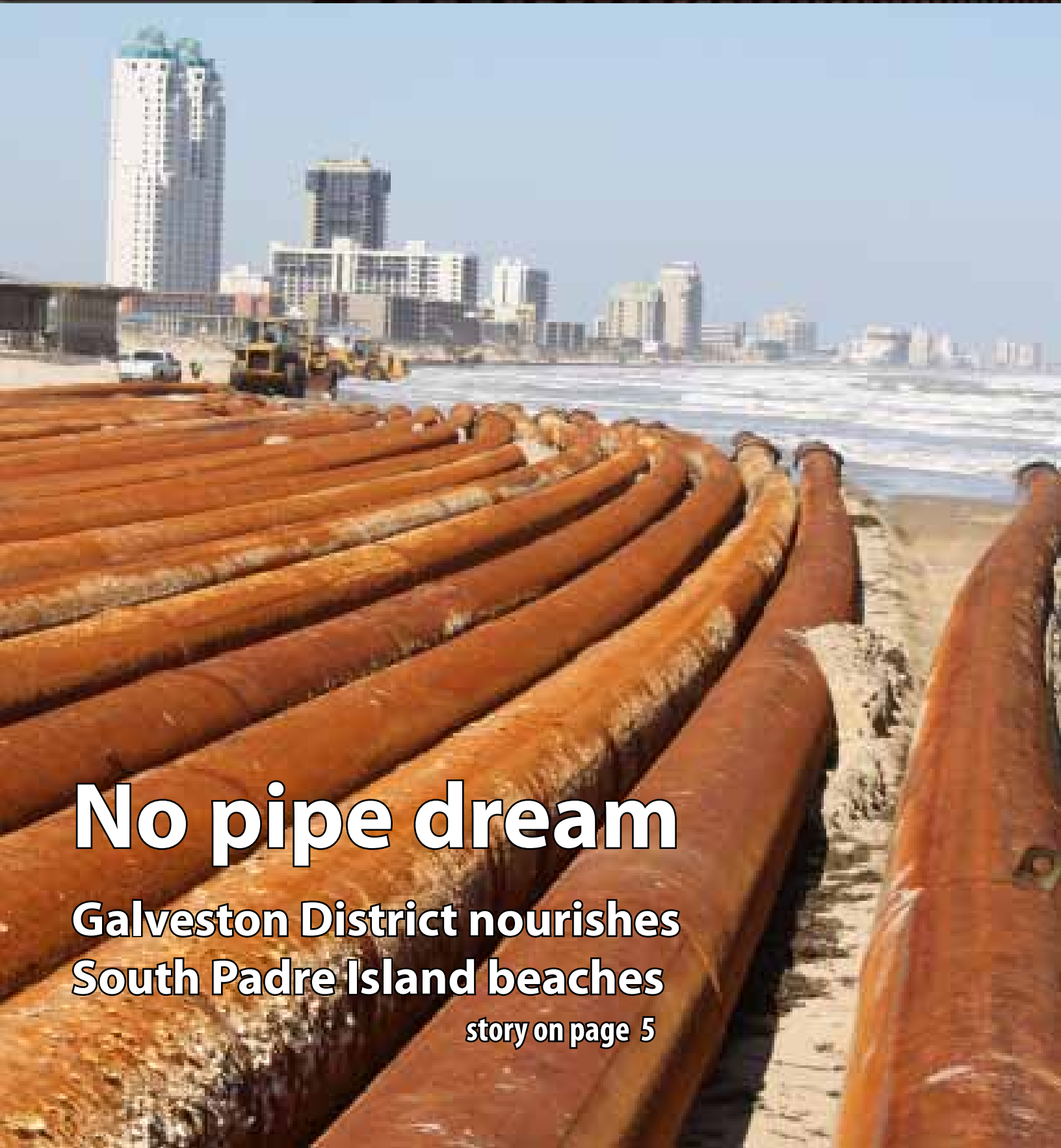
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

# **PACESETTER**

MARCH 2010

Vol. 5, No. 2



## **No pipe dream**

**Galveston District nourishes  
South Padre Island beaches**

story on page 5



## ***Pacesetter***

Serving the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division

Col. Anthony Funkhouser  
Commander,  
Southwestern Division

Rhonda James  
Chief, Public Affairs  
Southwestern Division

Sara Goodeyon  
Editor  
Tulsa District

Associate Editors  
Edward Rivera  
Fort Worth District

Cheri Dragos-Pritchard  
Little Rock District

Isidro Reyna  
Galveston District

Nate Herring  
Tulsa District

The ***Pacesetter*** is an unofficial publication published under AR 360-1 for members of the Southwestern Division and its retirees. Contents and editorial views expressed are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army or the U.S. Government. Articles or photographic submissions are welcome.

For more information about the ***Pacesetter***, or to make a submission, call your local Public Affairs Office.

## ***Inside this issue***

Page 3 SWD Commander's column

Page 4 Lady Rangers honored with statuette

Page 5 Galveston District nourishes South Padre Island beaches

Page 6 Campaign goals

Page 7 Rare bald eagle spotted – literally

Page 8 Tulsa District responds to ice event

Page 9 SWF Commander's column

Page 10 ECSO hands over Fort Hancock Border Patrol Station

Page 11 Water Safety

Page 13 Bull Shoals tours make finalist list

Page 14 Galveston Chief named Emergency Manager of the Year

Page 15 Fort Sam Houston Theater to gain new life under BRAC

Page 16 SWL Commander's column

Page 18 Kaw Lake ready for summer

Page 20 Corps and local partners celebrate reopening of Dana Peak Park

Page 21 SWT Commander's column

Page 22 Spotlight on Brownsville Resident Office

Page 23 Developmental assignments benefit SWL

Page 24 Basket weaving 101

Page 25 Fourth graders enjoy Valentine's lunch with Corps Pen Pals

Page 26 SWG Commander's column

Page 28 Profiles in giving

Page 29 Houstonians learn about Addicks and Barker Dam Safety

Page 31 Pacesetter Points



# Incredible effort overcomes challenges

*Col. Anthony Funkhouser  
Commander, Southwestern Division*

**W**elcome back to our spring edition of the Pacesetter! We have lots to share as we have accomplished a lot over the winter months—particularly with regard to execution of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. By the time you read this we will have reached our major milestone date of March 31 to award and obligate the preponderance of the ARRA awards. It has been an incredible effort as we overcame many challenges and developed ways to get them done! Southwestern Division and our districts had over \$667 million of ARRA for Civil Works, \$822 million ARRA for Military Programs and \$85.5 million for our International and Interagency Support Program.

This has been an incredible story as much of the ARRA was larger than many of our CW budgets for an average year. We have also worked to execute our remaining supplemental monies, our ARRA monies and base CW, MP and IIS monies. This, plus all the regional requirements. We accomplished all this with basically our same number of folks, many of them new to the Corps. Bottom line is we are on pace for a total program this fiscal year of more than \$5 billion for the second consecutive year. I cannot thank the Pacesetters enough for your selfless service, professional attitude, and stepping up to meet the challenges through these first six months.

February and March were very busy for all the District Commanders and their Deputy Program Managers as we had the opportunity to brief our FY11 President's budget to our senators and representatives. I even had the opportunity to attend the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Committee on Appropriations' meeting during the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Chief's testimony on the FY11 President's Budget. The congressional members were very proud of our successes in reducing our critical backlog of maintenance, demonstrating

transparency in our program and communication with their offices. We discussed that we would obligate all of our supplemental and ARRA funds by September 2010. We discussed that these funds have really helped to reduce our backlog of critical maintenance and will improve public safety and extend the life of our projects. It's also significant that we will have all of our Base Realignment and Closure projects awarded by then as well. FY10, by all accounts, will be another record year for awards.

Our Military Program has been the centerpiece of the entire Army program, peaking this year at \$2.5 billion which includes \$637

is funded with traditional military construction funds and will be awarded in four phases over four years, beginning in FY10. The Fort Bliss center is a \$1.5 billion project that is incrementally funded and will be awarded over several years. The Fort Bliss project has the potential to include Veterans Affairs construction funding that would add a special challenge in planning for design and acquisition.


Our International and Interagency Support program is steady and continues to maintain our excellent relationship in support of the Customs and Border Patrol. Of note, our very own Ms. Paula Johnson-Muic, chief of Real Estate for the division, recently received a

Special Recognition Team Award from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency during their National Annual Awards Ceremony.

Our SWD Family Readiness Program continues to grow and expand its support to our team and their families. The latest news is that the division has received \$50,000 from Corps headquar-

ters to help fund our program. This is a big step forward as the FRP was previously unfunded. These funds will help pay for labor, travel, and training costs.

The Pacesetters continue to provide critical members of our team in support of the Transatlantic Division and our folks in Iraq and Afghanistan. We wish all of our deployed teammates continued successes and a safe return to their families.

Again, I truly appreciate all the herculean efforts this last quarter to get the ARRA funds obligated. I could not be more proud of the Pacesetter Team and having the opportunity to work with so many great folks. Thank you and be safe in all you do! We'll see you next issue! 

---

***"... we are on pace for a total program this fiscal year of more than \$5 billion for the second consecutive year."***

---

million ARRA and \$372 million for BRAC. Some key challenges of our FY10 program are awarding the remaining ARRA projects by Sept. 30 this year, awarding the last of our BRAC program in time to have construction completed by Sept. 15, 2011, and completing all remaining ARRA Facilities Sustainment and Restoration Modernization awards by March 31. We are on track to meet all of these requirements with very few exceptions.

Another unique aspect of this year's program is having three hospital projects in Texas programmed for FY10 – Fort Hood Hospital Replacement, Lackland Ambulatory Care Center, and Fort Bliss Hospital/Medical Center. The overall programmed amount for these projects is \$2.8 billion. The Fort Hood Hospital is funded with both ARRA and FY09 Supplemental funds, which require award/obligation by Sept. 30. The Lackland center

# Lady Rangers honored with statuette

By Sara Goodeyon  
Tulsa District Public Affairs

**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, in cooperation with the Army Engineer Association has developed a statuette of a female Park Ranger to honor the women who have served at Corps project sites nationwide.

A statuette depicting a male Park Ranger was introduced in 2009, and shortly afterward Julius Nutter, director of SLW operations for the AEA, talked with Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Tulsa District commander, about the need for a female version of the statuette.

Nutter approached Funkhouser with the idea at a conference and, as they were discussing it, a female Park Ranger came up and asked when a statuette depicting a female Park Ranger would be made.

"So, we decided right there that we would pursue the development of the statuette of the female Park Ranger," said Funkhouser.

The idea for the statuettes of Park Rangers came to Funkhouser soon after

his arrival as commander of Tulsa District.

"When I arrived to serve with the Corps of Engineers, I saw that the Park Rangers were like the Soldiers of our Army," said Funkhouser. "They were the folks on the ground making things happen and were the face of the Corps with the public. They have a Corps-wide history that began in the 1970's and they have a distinctive uniform."

Funkhouser was familiar with the AEA, and the fact that the Association offered historical statuettes representing Soldiers from past wars fought by American Soldiers, so he contacted Nutter about creating the statuette, and Nutter made it happen.

The statuette of the male Park Ranger was a hit and a source of pride within the Natural Resource Management community after districts began to award them to

At left, the prototype of the statuette of the female Park Ranger in development by the Army Engineer Association and Tulsa District. The finished version will

have some revisions and is expected to be ready soon. At right, the photo of Tulsa District Natural Resources Specialist Amanda Peters who was selected by Col. Anthony Funkhouser as the model for the statuette. "I was honored that Col. Funkhouser asked me to be the model for the female version of the Park Ranger statuette," said Peters. "I hope my fellow Park Rangers are proud to receive this statuette for an award. It is truly an honor to have a statue created specifically for our profession."


their employees, said Funkhouser.

The rangers who posed for the statuettes were chosen by Funkhouser for sentimental reasons as both Steve Armstrong, the male model, and Amanda Peters, the female model, had served on Funkhouser's color guard for his incoming change of command at Tulsa District. The

7-inch high pewter statuette depicts the rangers in their Class A uniforms.

Funkhouser stressed that the statuette is not just a Tulsa product; it represents all Park Rangers and their contributions to the Corps and is intended for use Corps-wide.

"I think the statuette is a great way to recognize our Park Rangers and is also a source of pride," said Funkhouser. "It brings their origin as Rangers into the story and gives them a standard within their organizations to strive toward."

The statuette depicting the female Park Ranger will be available in early spring through the AEA for use by all Corps Districts. 



USACE Photo





Photo by Ruth Millsaps

## SWD Park Ranger Conference

The Southwestern Division held a Natural Resources Park Ranger Conference Feb. 22-25 in Fort Worth. Current events, issues, policies as well as lessons learned were discussed.

In the photo, the division's Critical Incident Stress Management Team provide information at a conference booth. Left to right: Roger Howell, SWL, Kristine Brown, SWG, Tim Gibson, SWF, Dorinda Young, SWT, Chris Smith, SWL and Terry Schmidt, SWG.

## Galveston District nourishes South Padre Island beaches

**By Isidro Reyna**  
**Galveston District Public Affairs**

Residents of Texas' famed Spring Break destination are enjoying better beaches this March thanks to a dredging and beach nourishment project completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District.

A contract was awarded December 2009 to Weeks Marine Inc. for dredging of the inside jetty channel across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway into the main channel near South Padre Island, Texas, and then up the Port Isabel channel to the turning basin.

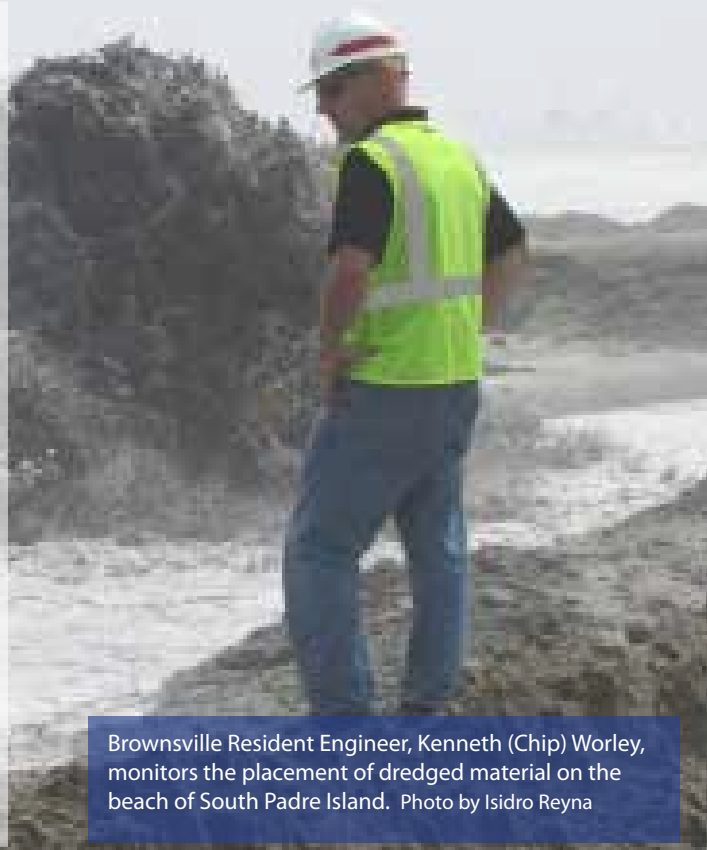
"This is a double win for the residents, businesses and Spring Break goers in the Padre Island area," said Kenneth (Chip) Worley, Brownsville Office Resident Engineer with the Galveston District. "Not only do we take care of our mission of keeping America's waterways navigable, but we also turn that mission into a benefit for homeowners, tourists and businesses."

Approximately 200,000 cubic yards of dredged material was placed on Padre Island beaches as a result of this operation, said Worley.

"This beach nourishment project, called beneficial use, employs environmentally and economically responsible ways to utilize dredged materials to benefit local communities," said Worley. "Through beach nourishment, we improve eroded coastlines through the placement of this dredged material."

Work began mid-February and was completed March 12 in order to avoid both the turtle nesting season and Spring Break.

The contract award was for \$16,134,750.



Brownsville Resident Engineer, Kenneth (Chip) Worley, monitors the placement of dredged material on the beach of South Padre Island. Photo by Isidro Reyna

# 'I pity the fool!' who doesn't know their Campaign Plan goals

By Edward Rivera  
Fort Worth District Public Affairs

**L**et's play a little word association game. Look at the following words, or group of words, and jot down what comes to mind; objectives, goals, Operation Plan, Implementation Plan and Campaign Plan.

I know what you are thinking; not another management plan launched downward from the command stratosphere with a catch phrase like "Get on the Bus" or "Good to Great." And you are absolutely correct, we are on the bus, and are already on that journey toward greatness.

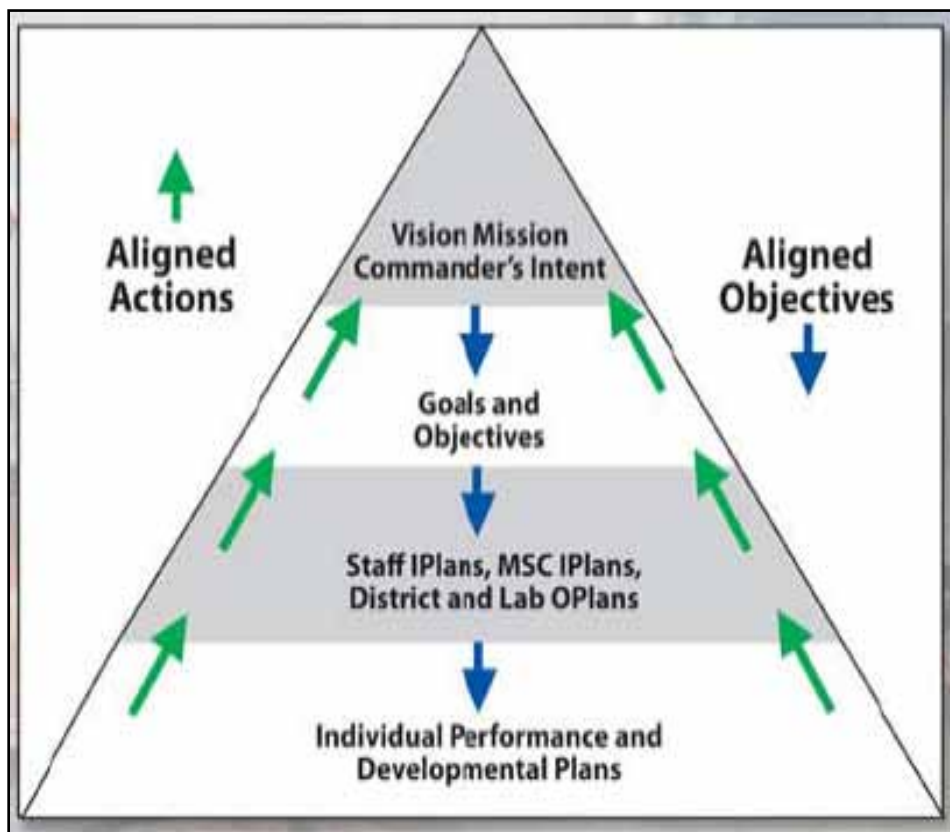
So what's our destination you ask? Basically it's that point, which is always evolving, and is better known to each of us as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Vision. That overall vision is "to become a great engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation's engineering challenges."

So how do we start on this journey to greatness? It's simple. To coin a phrase from Stephen R. Covey, author of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," we must "begin with the end in mind." Part of that is not only understanding what the USACE Vision is, but also grasping the Chief of Engineers' intent.

"My intent is for the Corps to be one disciplined team in thought, word, and action—and to meet our commitments, with and through our partners, by saying what we do, and doing what we say," said Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, commanding general, USACE.

Having a vision and the commander's intent isn't enough to begin our trek to greatness. We still need the meat and potatoes of this great dish and those ingredients are the goals and objectives established by our leadership based on several spoonfuls of input from every USACE employee.

USACE's Campaign Plan goals and objectives are derived, in part, from the Commander's Intent, the Army Campaign Plan, and the Office of Management and Budget. The four goals and their associated objectives



A diagram of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan goals and objectives established by USACE leadership. They are based on input from every USACE employee and are intended to help the Corps develop into one disciplined team in thought, word and action, and to meet our commitments with and through our partners by saying what we do, and doing what we say.

also build on prior strategic planning efforts. Each goal and objective is led by a USACE senior leader who manages and oversees actions to reach the goal and objectives.

"All Corps employees must know and understand the four goals and understand where and how each of us as individual team members align and support those goals and objectives," said Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District.

After delving into the overarching, Campaign Plan, and understanding the District's Operations plans, it is clear that although top driven, success will come via a trickle 'up' ideology.


Now that we know the big picture, or the tip of the pyramid, and how the goals and objectives flow down to each individual, we can focus on building the foundation for a successful Campaign Plan.

This is where the action is for every USACE team member.

This action begins with the writing of our

performance tasks and objectives. What puts the bus in gear to greatness is ensuring what we say we will do is relevant to not only our individual goals, but also to the goals set for us from higher echelons. We must also be able to attain our goals and quantify them so we can track our successes and identify areas needing improvement.

With successful execution of our performance tasks and ensuring they are properly aligned with our performance objectives this solidifies the plan's foundation and puts into motion the gears to move us from where we are to where we want to be.

As it was stated in a recent Campaign Plan leadership briefing, "collaborated, synchronized, and deliberate action, by 34,000 USACE employees will make the Corps of Engineers Great." 

# Rare bald eagle spotted – literally

## *Little Rock District rangers document unique bird during annual count*

---

**By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard**  
**Little Rock District Public Affairs**

---

**S**ince the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began gathering data for the National Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count in 1986, there has never been a documented sighting of such a rarity as the one spotted this year by Little Rock District rangers at Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas.

This bald eagle's feathers are literally spotted. The condition is called leucism, a genetic mutation that causes birds to have white feathers where they normally would not. It can happen to any breed of bird, and birding Web sites indicate it is fairly common — but not among bald eagles.

In fact, the Corps and U.S. Geological Survey have counted thousands of bald eagles during the past 24 years throughout the lower 48 states without recording a single leucistic bald eagle — until now.

"To my knowledge, none of the Corps districts in the nation have reported a finding like this," Little Rock District forester Troy Morris said.

As for "normal" bald eagles, statistics show a continued increase in numbers.

"In 2006, there were approximately 7,066 breeding pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states, up from an estimated 417 breeding pairs in 1963," said count manager Wade Eakle, an ecologist and regulatory program manager at the Corps' South Pacific Division. "However, in some regions, like the Southwest, we've seen declining trends."

Bald eagles were removed from the "Endangered Species" list in 1995. It was placed on the "Threatened Species" list until June 28, 2007, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed bald eagles from that list because there were sufficient numbers of nesting pairs within the lower 48 states.

As of the first week of March, Little Rock documented 555 bald eagle sightings, to include the unique spotted bald eagle. Corps-wide there has been an increasing trend (+1.7 percent) in sightings, but final numbers won't be tallied for another month or two.

"We expect to have all of the data by probably later this spring or possibly summer," Eakle said. "Then hopefully we'll start to screen the 1986 through 2010 data set for the statistical trends analysis in the fall. This statistical analysis will yield model-based estimates of eagle count trends for different regions and states from 1986 through 2010."

Mid-winter eagle counts provide long-term baseline data and are




A feather condition known as leucism caused this bald eagle to appear spotted rather than the normal coloration pattern that gave the bird its name. Little Rock District counted 555 bald eagles, including this one, within its boundaries during the National Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count.

Photo by Alan Bland

provided for under a memorandum of agreement between the Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, and the Corps.

Unlike nesting surveys, mid-winter counts provide information on both breeding and non-breeding segments of the population. The counts also provide an opportunity to monitor modifications or threats to habitat at important wintering areas, and they create public interest in eagle conservation.

Flip Puthoff, an outdoor writer for the Northwest Arkansas Morning News, was along on the Beaver Lake eagle count, and a photo he took of the leucistic bird is posted on the paper's website at <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2010/jan/18/lake-gets-rare-visitor/>.

Since that cold day in mid-January, the rare eagle has not been seen again at Beaver Lake. But you can bet lake visitors are still hoping to "spot" it. 



# Tulsa District responds to ice event

**By Nate Herring**  
**Tulsa District Public Affairs**

**W**hen disaster strikes and a large number of people are left in the dark, the Tulsa District's Power Response Team is called into action to help restore temporary power. The ice storm that struck western Oklahoma Jan. 27 was no exception.

Fourteen employees from the PRT deployed on the operation, which was known internally as "Operation Mr. Freeze," to coordinate the installation of generators that restored power to water treatment plants, hospitals, police stations, nursing homes, and other facilities critical to the area's infrastructure.

The majority of the team deployed to Fort Sill in Lawton, Okla., the staging area for the operation. Two other Corps employees were deployed to Oklahoma City, where they coordinated with state officials. Some team members remained deployed until the last generator was uninstalled on Feb. 16.



Photo by William Smiley

The Tulsa District Power Response Team went to western Oklahoma in January to install generators and provide electricity to essential infrastructure in the area.

The PRT was responsible for overseeing the overall mission, while members of the 249th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg, N.C., conducted the assessment of the facilities and contractors installed and maintained the generators.

The ice storm left an estimated 180,000 people without power, some for several weeks.

Kerri Stark, who deployed with the PRT, stressed the necessity of its quick response.

"It's important for us to come in right when things happen so we can get those places set back up so they can continue running until

their power comes back on," said Stark.

The team was provided 94 generators, ranging from 6,500 watts to 1,500 kilowatts, from FEMA's storage facility in Fort Worth, Texas. The team oversaw the installation of 67 of those generators.


The ice storm was compared to a similar one that hit eastern Oklahoma in 2007, which caused severe damage and power outages to that part of the state, according to Stark.

"I could tell when I was driving down the highway on my way out there that it was bad," said Stark. "As I drove further west, you could see the ice. I was shocked. There was nothing, and then all of a sudden I saw fallen trees and ice everywhere. It was like a warzone."

The power team deploys to support various disaster relief missions where the temporary restoration of power is needed.

Past operations include hurricanes, tornadoes, and, for the past four years, Oklahoma has been hit with severe ice storms that required the PRT's response.

It deployed on ice storm operations in December 2007, January 2008, and January 2009.

"There is a big need and a huge importance for us being there to assist in these types of situations," Stark said. 

## Customer care leads to cash award

**By Sara Goodeyon**  
**Tulsa District Public Affairs**

A project engineer is the first quarter Customer Care Award winner for his outstanding execution of the Fort Sill Construction Program for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Tulsa District.

Jeff Hirschfeld was responsible for multiple projects, to include those under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Operational and Maintenance, and Energy Conservation Investment Program.

Hirschfeld was specifically recognized for "noteworthy" oversight of the ARRA and O&M programs, which required extensive customer interaction to ensure success, and to enable critical customer expectation management, said Gary Holt and Todd Hughes, Fort Sill USACE project managers, in their nomination submis-



Photo by Gary Holt


Customer Care Award winner Jeff Hirschfeld

sion.

The Fort Sill ARRA is a 15 project, \$54 million program that required almost "constant" reporting and interaction with customers, said Holt and Hughes in the nomination.

Hirschfeld is credited with working with all of the necessary customers and agencies to accomplish the RFP development and issuance, and preparation of the government estimates on approximately 40 individual projects, and in the process worked long hours, including weekends.

Hirschfeld was also praised for a customer-focused approach that is credited with improving the working relationship with Fort Sill Area Office customers.

A \$500 On-The-Spot cash award was given to Hirschfeld by the Engineering and Construction Division. 





# District prepares to celebrate 60 years supporting Texas and the Nation

**Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr.**  
**Commander, Fort Worth District**

**T**eam – a huge thank you and HOOAH for the yeoman's job you do everyday to execute the District's programs and mission. I want to share a few highlights for the months of March through May. First, we had a great event on March 5, at the Dana Peak Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Harker Heights. Kudos are in order for Greg Pope, Dan Thomasson and the folks at the Capitol Region Office and Belton and Stillhouse Lakes for reopening the last park that received damage in the aftermath of the floods of 2007. After the floods, dead trees, trash and animal remains were among the items that needed to be cleared before park renovations could begin. Through our partnership with several local communities; many local residents and organizations volunteered to remove debris to get the park back into shape. It was not until then that we were able to complete the task of renovating our parks in just three years. This is truly a community's park and you did an outstanding job in returning the park to the communities of Killeen, Belton, Harker Heights and Fort Hood.

March is also National Women's History Month. National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month and subsequently passed a resolution for Women's History Month. Each year the President issues a proclamation for this annual recognition and sets the theme. This year's theme is "Writing Women Back into History." In celebration of their 30th anniversary, the National Women's History Project will be highlighting themes and honorees from previous years. Each of these past themes recognizes a different aspect of women's achievements,

from ecology to art; from sports to politics. I encourage each of you to take a look at the display down on the first floor of our SWF offices put together by Janice Alexander and her volunteer team with the EEO offices' Federal Women's Program. They did a great job with the display, illustrating the numerous and outstanding accomplishments of our Nation's women throughout our storied history.

As we move out of March into April, let's prepare to celebrate Fort Worth District's 60th Anniversary on 16 April. Our District was established in 1950, a year after flooding devastated the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Many of you have seen the infamous photo of a flooded downtown area featuring the Montgomery Wards building, where flood waters rose to the second story of that high rise building.

But our history of tragic weather patterns traces farther back than that monumental day. North Texas has long been noted for periods of severe draughts, followed by periods of extreme flooding. During World War II, Congress approved construction of several mwajor reservoirs in North Texas under the Galveston District to include Benbrook, Lewisville, Grapevine, Lavon and Whitney. The primary purpose of these projects was flood control. To lighten Galveston's already heavy workload, the Fort Worth District was formed and has since constructed 25 major water resources projects, including the Fort Worth and Dallas Floodways, and the San Antonio

*See "Celebrate" next page*



Photo by Andre Mayeaux

## **Hall of Fame presenter, hands out safety**

Dallas Cowboys Hall of Famer, and Super bowl star Drew Pearson, was the keynote speaker and teamed up with USACE Fort Worth District Commander, Colonel Richard Muraski for the presentation of awards at the annual SWF Safety banquet. The banquet closed out the March 9-10 Fort Worth District Commander's Field Training Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

# ECSO hands over Fort Hancock Border Patrol Station

**Story and photo by Jim Frisinger**  
**Fort Worth District Public Affairs**

**R**ibbon-cutting ceremonies Feb. 12 at the new Fort Hancock Border Patrol Station marked the latest handover of a construction project executed by the Engineering and Construction Support Office Facilities Branch.

The new 44,000-square-foot complex is capable of supporting 200 Border Patrol Agents who had been working from a small building meant to house eight agents.

Michael Gerardot in Fort Worth was the program manager for ECSO on the project, Jeff Firebaugh of the Albuquerque District was project manager and Mike Baker was project manager for U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Facilities Management and Engineering in Dallas.

Border Patrol Agent in Charge Michael Griego called dedication day a "heartfelt and historic occasion."


"I have never seen morale higher," said



An aerial view of the new 44,000-square-foot Fort Hancock Border Patrol Station complex in West Texas shows an administrative, processing and detention center, a vehicle/maintenance facility, dog kennels, a fueling station, a sally port and a training gym for agents.

El Paso Border Patrol Sector Chief Victor Manjarrez Jr. "I have asked much of the Fort Hancock Station, to make do with the bare minimum."

Lt. Col. Andre Balyoz, deputy commander of the Albuquerque District, spoke to hun-

dreds of agents and guests at the dedication on behalf of USACE. He shared ribbon-cutting duties with Agents Griego and Manjarrez, as well as Craig Guess, Vanguard Contractors president. 

## **"Celebrate"** *continued from previous page*

Channel Improvement and Tunnels Projects.

Over the past 60 years, the Fort Worth District's past and present employees have contributed significantly to water resources development, flood control, recreation opportunities, environmental stewardship, military preparedness and support to other agencies.


On behalf of all the former District Commanders, I want to thank all of our dedicated military and ci-

vilian employees who have contributed in making Fort Worth District one of the best in USACE.

Finally, in May, we begin the surge of recreational use of our 25 lakes for boating, fishing and swimming activities. It is paramount that we place a full court press on our water safety campaign.

This campaign will be highlighted with "Water Safety Day" at all of our lakes. I look forward to see-

ing our park rangers, lake managers, but also every member of the SWF team help to inform the public of our overarching Corps message – SAFETY FIRST.

In doing so we ensure the public a safe, fun, and educational atmosphere to visit and enjoy our lakes. 

**Keep them smiling. Keep them safe.**



**Kids wearing life jackets ...  
a safe choice around water.**



<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/>

# The goal is zero: Water safety top priority for upcoming recreational season

By Isidro Reyna  
Galveston District Public Affairs

**W**ith the springtime here and the summer months fast approaching, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Southwestern Division is gearing up for a busy season at its 90 lakes with more than 1,100 recreational facilities. And with the Division's recreation areas being the most visited in the entire Corps, there's a special emphasis on educating the public about recreational water safety.

"Our goal for public fatalities at our projects, lakes and recreational facilities is zero," said Colonel Anthony C. Funkhouser, Southwestern Division commander. "One death is too many and we are going to make every effort to ensure we meet this goal."

At a January Regional Water Safety Conference hosted by the division in Dallas, a Water Safety Team comprised of Operations, Safety and Public Affairs personnel at the district, division and headquarters levels presented best practices that have worked at each respective location.

"I'm enthused with some of the new ideas and initiatives," said Bruce Barrett, Southwestern Division Safety and Occupational Health chief. "Sharing and exchanging ideas is what really works well and we have the best teammates and professionals in this business to do just that."

The Southwestern Division has taken a regionalized approach to its Water Safety program which allows its districts to collaborate in order to maximize water safety outreach efforts to the public.

## Best Practices

In the Fort Worth District, where 25 lakes are located, Operations personnel continue to do what works well.

The district collaborates with law enforce-

ment officials, including the state of Texas' water safety officers and game wardens to ensure rules and regulations are enforced and Corps park rangers continue to provide educational outreach to area schools.

"The efforts we make in schools and with parents are working, said Charles Burger, Fort Worth District Operations Division chief. "We can't abandon what we know is right."

The Fort Worth District has enlisted four interns from the Student Conservation Association which assist in educating the public and providing outreach on water safety to the public at the district's various lakes

---

**"Our goal for public fatalities at our projects, lakes and recreational facilities is zero."**

*-Colonel Anthony C. Funkhouser,  
Southwestern Division commander*

---

during peak weekends. Two of the interns are bilingual, which helps to reach out to a wider audience.

Partnerships with area organizations that have similar goals and objectives are important when executing a successful water safety program in the Galveston District, according to district water safety program



Photo by Isidro Reyna

Colonel Anthony Funkhouser, Southwestern Division commander, presents Kristine Brown and Johnny Rozsypal of the Galveston District, with the Commander's Safety Award for prevention of public fatal accidents. The Galveston District had no fatal accidents in 2009, which helped reduce the Division's overall accidents by 12 percent.

manager and park ranger, Kristine Brown.

"We've built our program on partnerships," she said.

One of the programs created by the Galveston District nine years ago is the Life Jacket Loaner Program, an initiative which continues to this day to provide the public with free life jackets for use while boating in and around the Houston and Galveston areas.

The Life Jacket Loaner Program is done as a partnering project with the Safe Kids Greater Houston Water Safety Coalition, a group of volunteers representing non-profit and private business organizations, including federal, state, and local governmental agencies such as the Corps, said Brown.

In the Little Rock District, recognition of those who make a difference is taking place at its 25 multi-purpose lakes.

"We're making a concerted effort to recognize those who save a life," Andrea Murdock-McDaniel, chief of operations for the Little Rock District, said.

*continued on next page*



The Little Rock District is also reviewing its cliff jumping policy to better ensure the safety of visitors to its lakes and is looking to recognize its partners for their efforts in promoting water safety and saving lives.

In Tulsa, the Corps' water safety mascot, Bobber, has partnered with local celebrities to reach out to a larger audience. Additionally, the district has wrapped two safety trailers with water safety messages for use while traveling from recreation site to site. The trailers house educational materials, life jackets and other items needed for water safety events held at various recreation sites.

The Tulsa District also has maps on its Web site showing locations of water related fatalities which details when and where fatalities have been reported. The maps will soon be updated with locations where fatalities were prevented.

The District is working to expand water safety messages in area movie theaters and will purchase additional Bobber mascot suits.

### The Way Ahead

Funkhouser applauded the districts for tremendous efforts and challenged the group to go a step further.

"How do we make safety cool?" he asked.

"If I'm in a certain age bracket and I put on a personal flotation device, am I not cool? How do you get people to wear the vest?"

"We need to get the momentum going from good to great," said Funkhouser. "We track fatalities through Commander's Critical Incident Reports. We should also track the saves."

Funkhouser presented the Southwestern Division's Commander's Safety Award for prevention of public fatal accidents to the Galveston District Water Safety Team for having no fatal accidents in 2009. This district's efforts helped reduce the division's overall accidents by 12 percent.

The commander also presented Lynda Nutt and Rachel Garren of the National Water Safe-



Photo by Isidro Reyna

ty Team with division coins for their efforts in collaborating with SWD.

Deputy Southwestern Division commander, Colonel Billy Tollison, also spoke during the conference. He presented a regimental coin of excellence to Barrett for representing what it means to think outside the box as the division's safety manager.



# Bull Shoals tours make finalist list

**By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard**  
**Little Rock District Public Affairs**

**L**ittle Rock's Bull Shoals Powerhouse tours made the finalist list for Outstanding Volunteer Service Award category through the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism's Henry Award competition.

The awards are presented each year at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, and given to a community, individual or organization that, through outstanding volunteer spirit, has made a substantial contribution to Arkansas' tourism industry, according to the news release sent out by the Department of Tourism.

Bull Shoals Powerhouse tours were stopped for security reasons after the Sept. 11 attacks. After seven years, they resumed the tours in 2008. In a combined effort between the Bull Shoals State Park and the district, the tours were reinstated.

Following diligent safety and security considerations and changes, the two groups recruited and trained volunteers to provide tourist with an interpretive tour of the powerhouse and its operation.

The tours are managed through the James A. Gaston Visitor Center. Park staff coordinates tours with the powerhouse and facilitate the reservations and check-in of tour visitors. The group is then shuttled to the powerhouse in a state park van as volunteers, equipped with wireless audio headsets, take them on a "journey of discovery through this engineering marvel," said Mark Eddings, Jr., chief recreation park ranger at Mountain Home Project Office. The presentation is meant

to leave the visitors "with a hunger to explore deeper the legacy of the White River and the Ozarks," Eddings said.

Since reinstated, reaction to the Bull Shoals Powerhouse tours has been "extremely phenomenal," said Mountain Home Project Office Operations Manager Tracy Fancher.


"In addition to the extensive local and state media coverage, news agencies from across the country included a feature about the tours in their publications," Eddings said. "An Oklahoma City television crew traveled to the park to get footage for a special feature, and from Connecticut to Colorado, Bull Shoals, Ark., was once again on the map. A news article was even published in Great Britain about the tours."

Since the 2008 season began, 250 public tours have been given to approximately 2,700 visitors with hundreds being turned away, Fancher stated. Hundreds of school children and special-interest groups from around the region have also participated in the tours.

"But most importantly, the heritage of Arkansas' crown jewel is once again being utilized to educate and inspire the public for generations to come," Fancher said with a note of pride.

Upon completion of Bull Shoals Dam in 1951, the eighth largest structure of the time, it gained national attention when President Harry S. Truman traveled to the dam site for a dedication ceremony amid public and media fanfare. Since that time, Bull Shoals Dam has been responsible for much of the impact tourism has made on the area.

Many resorts, hotels and restaurants have taken advantage of the prosperity of the area. In 1955, Arkansas' seventh state park was created, Bull Shoals State Park. Since that time the park has provided a variety of recreational opportunities as well as served as a steward of the area through educational and conservation programming.

Since the mid 1950s Bull Shoals Dam, through the public tours of the powerhouse, has also played a key role in interpreting the positive impact the project has had on the Ozarks. 

*Your worthy achievements in support of the Arkansas tourism industry have been officially recognized by your peers through a selection process hereby confirming you to a distinguished group of final nominees in the category:*



**Bull Shoals Dam**



# Galveston District Emergency Management Chief named USACE Emergency Manager of the Year

**By Martie Cencki**  
**Galveston District Public Affairs**

Constantine G. (Gus) Marinos, chief of the Emergency Management Office for the Galveston District, was recently named the Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager of the Year for 2008. The award is in recognition of his efforts in support of the District's response to three hurricanes and a tropical storm during the 2008 Hurricane Season. This includes Hurricane Ike, which made landfall in the Galveston area in September 2008.

"Gus Marinos was selected from among Corps Emergency Managers across the nation in a highly competitive process," said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "His outstanding performance and dedication in managing our response and recovery efforts during the 2008 Hurricane Season were truly exemplary. Add to his efforts the fact that he suffered tremendous personal damage from Hurricane Ike, and his accomplishments are even more impressive."

Marinos provided oversight and management of the District's response to Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav, and Ike, as well as Tropical Storm Eduard. Hurricane Dolly made landfall on the southernmost Texas coast, impacting District operations in the Corpus Christi to Brownsville area. Marinos ensured that the response organization was in place, managed funds, and executed the mission. His involvement in Hurricane Ike included establishment of the District's Alternate Emergency Operations Center in Houston, overseeing a full spectrum of Federal Emergency Management Agency missions (including debris, temporary power, commodities, ice, water, temporary roofing, assessment of critical infrastructure), and providing oversight and management of the Recovery Field Office, which was established in the Houston area. Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides support to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency by executing assigned

missions.

"I am so honored and grateful to receive this award," Marinos said. "Honored because every year there are so many who could very easily be recognized. And grateful that the accomplishments of Team Galveston and all those supporting our District are also recognized by this award."

Marinos, who is a Galveston native and graduate of Texas A&M University, has been with the Galveston District for 27 years and Emergency Management chief for 18. He has supported all District emergency operations since Hurricane Alicia in 1983, and considers Hurricane Rita in 2005 as one of the most significant.

"Not only was Rita a major hurricane," he said, "it affected two states and strategic port facilities in Beaumont. Additionally, our response resources were limited due to a significantly larger simultaneous response to Katrina."

From his vantage point of having been involved in both Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Ike, Marinos saw several differences.

"From my perspective, Ike was much smoother," he said. "During Ike, evacuation to our alternate Emergency Operations Center at Addicks was improved to the point we were able to stand up non-emergency teams to continue the District's routine work. We had more survey assets for a quicker assessment of channels and we had improved Constantine G. (Gus) Marinos, chief of the Emergency Management Office for the Galveston District, was recently named the Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager of the Year for 2008. The award is in recognition of his efforts in support of the District's response to three hurricanes and a tropical storm during the 2008 Hurricane Season. This includes Hurricane Ike, which made landfall in the Galveston area in September 2008.

"Gus Marinos was selected from among Corps Emergency Managers across the nation in a highly competitive process," said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "His outstanding performance and dedication in managing our response and recovery efforts during the 2008 Hurricane Season were truly exemplary. Add to his efforts the fact that he suffered tremendous personal damage from Hurricane Ike, and his accom-



Gus Marinos, chief of the Emergency Management Office for the Galveston District, is the Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager of the Year for 2008. (USACE photo)

plishments are even more impressive."

Marinos provided oversight and management of the District's response to Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav, and Ike, as well as Tropical Storm Eduard. Hurricane Dolly made landfall on the southernmost Texas coast, impacting District operations in the Corpus Christi to Brownsville area. Marinos ensured that the response organization was in place, managed funds, and executed the mission. His involvement in Hurricane Ike included establishment of the District's Alternate Emergency Operations Center in Houston, overseeing a full spectrum of Federal Emergency Management Agency missions (including debris, temporary power, commodities, ice, water, temporary roofing, assessment of critical infrastructure), and providing oversight and management of the Recovery Field Office, which was established in the Houston area. Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides support to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency by executing assigned missions.

"I am so honored and grateful to receive this award," Marinos said. "Honored

**See "Emergency" page 19**



# Historic Fort Sam Houston theater to gain new life under BRAC renovation project

**Story and photo by Brian Dwyer**  
**Fort Worth District Public Affairs**

**A**fter sitting vacant for more than two decades, one of the first dedicated movie theaters built by the U.S. Army in the United States is about to begin a journey back in time. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District has awarded a \$16.9 million contract to RKJ Construction, Inc. to renovate and build an addition to the 75-year old main post theater on Fort Sam Houston. RKJ is based in Lampasas, Texas.

The building will become the new home of the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command's Army Entertainment Division, which is relocating to Fort Sam Houston from Fort Belvoir, Virginia as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandates. This division stages a touring musical production called the U.S. Army Soldier Show, featuring active duty soldiers who are selected via auditions from throughout the Army. The renovated 14,700 square foot theater will serve as the rehearsal hall for the cast of the annual production, while an 18,000 square foot addition will provide space for offices, recording studios, and equipment storage.

The project will alter the building's original movie theater configuration to accommodate theatrical productions. The work will involve extending the existing stage and modifying the rear portion of the building to incorporate the 80-foot-tall rigging necessary to raise and lower stage sets. The balcony seating will be removed to make room for lighting and sound equipment, reducing the theater's seating capacity from 1,100 to 800.

Many of the theater's architecturally distinctive elements will be retained as part of the renovation effort. The theater was built in 1935 in a Spanish Colonial Revival style with a white stucco exterior, arched entryways, and a bell tower reminiscent of Spanish missions. The building's historic appearance and character will remain intact through the preservation of a number of features, including original light fixtures, wooden banisters, exterior lamp posts, the heavy wooden front doors, carved wooden ceiling beams, frescoes and wall murals, and the original ticket booth in front of the main



(Left) The Fort Sam Houston's 75-year old theater will be renovated and expanded to become the new home of the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command's Army Entertainment Division, which is relocating to the post from Fort Belvoir, Va. The renovated 14,700 square foot theater will serve as a rehearsal hall while an 18,000 square foot addition will provide space for offices, recording studios, and equipment storage. (Above) A rendering of the renovated post theater shows the theater will retain many of its architecturally distinctive elements.

entrance. Plans also call for replica film posters to be mounted on the interior walls when the project concludes. The project is expected to be finished by the fall of 2011.

This contract is one of 26 that are expected to be awarded in fiscal year 2010 for BRAC and other military construction projects in San Antonio. The projected value of these contracts exceeds \$390 million. During the past two fiscal years, contracts worth almost \$2 billion have been awarded through the San Antonio BRAC and military construction program. The construction contractors that receive contracts continue to hire many subcontractors from the San Antonio area to help complete their projects.

The rapid pace of construction has put the San Antonio BRAC program on track to complete several projects in 2010. By the end of the fiscal year in September, it is anticipated that more than 20 facilities will have been made ready to begin supporting military missions and personnel that are coming to San Antonio from other parts of the country.

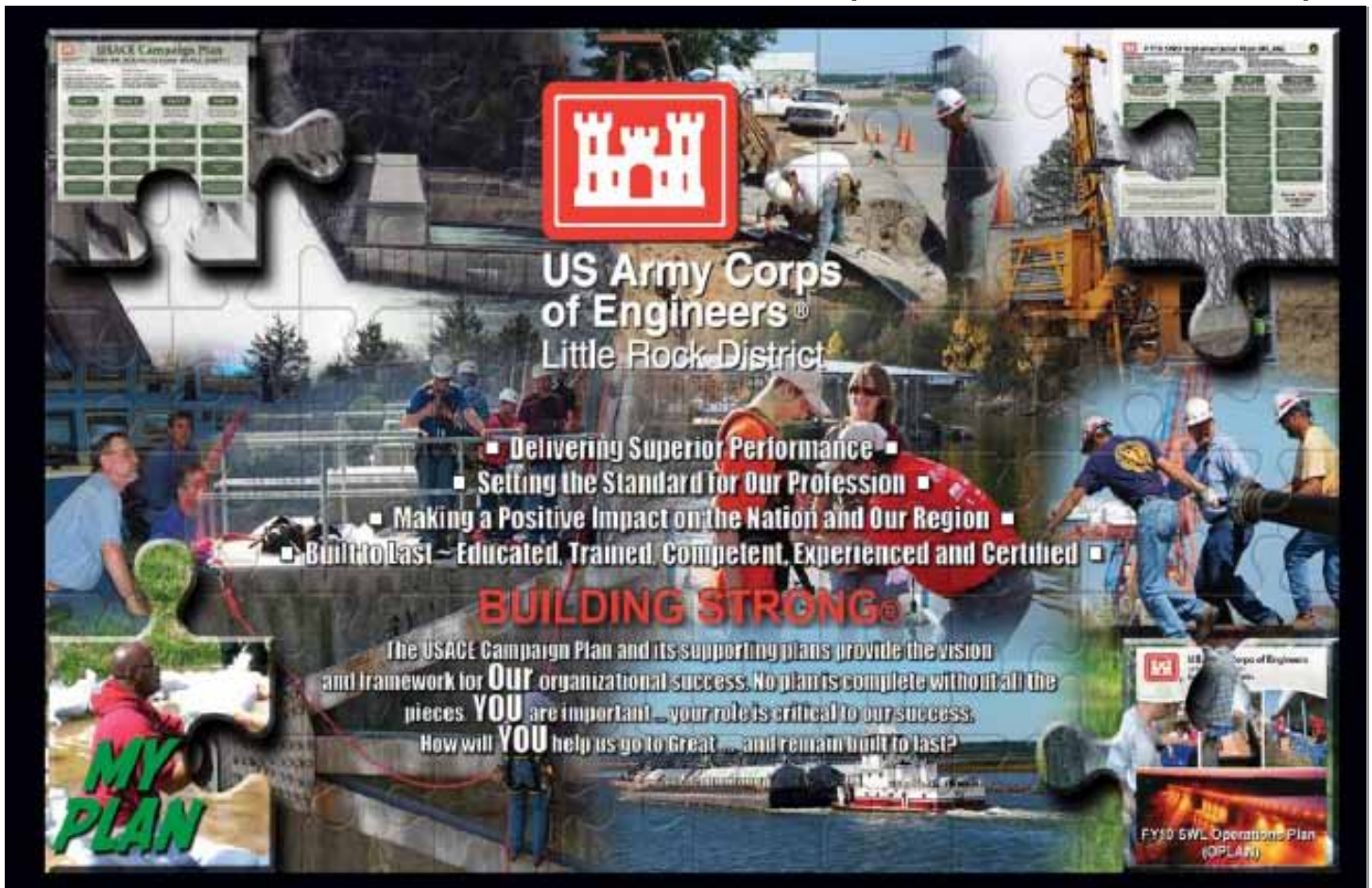




# Putting it all together

*Col. Donald E. Jackson  
Commander, Little Rock District*

Puzzle - Understand the picture on the box top



**A** lot of talk has been made over the past several years about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan.

Our chief, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, has emphasized the need for our organization to have a common framework and direction in order to be as effective an organization as possible for our Nation. He often uses a puzzle analogy (i.e., the importance of the box top) to illustrate the value of knowing where you are going...and having the end state in mind.

As you might imagine, the plan comes with a number of subordinate execution plans. These plans have been developed at both the Southwestern Division and Little Rock District levels and are designed to further refine the objectives of the former, tailoring these objectives to our assigned missions, roles and responsibilities.

Discussion and determination of individual roles critical to the overall execution of the plan has been delegated to the district levels.

I admit to being woefully deficient in my articulation of this plan to you. More importantly, I have not developed an effective strategy to help you understand the importance of your individual efforts in

making our corporate effort successful.

With the help of some very talented individuals in our ACE-IT team, Robert Carr and Bob Dahms, we have attempted to create a simple visual aid that will help me communicate our corporate vision and the important role that each of us play.

Let me explain. The USACE Campaign Plan and its supporting plans provide the vision and framework for OUR organizational success. If you Google “putting together a jigsaw puzzle” you will see that understanding the picture on the box is consistently the first step in successfully completing any assembly effort. Not only should we understand the picture on the box but we must ensure we are focused on the “right” box if we want to end up where we want to go.

The Chief has challenged us to deliver superior performance, set the standard for our profession, make a positive impact on our nation and our region, be built to last...educated, trained, competent, experienced

*See “Puzzle” next page*



and certified.

This is the right picture to which we should all aspire. Everything we do must be focused with this end state in mind. How do we get there from here? What is the next step? Why should we even care...

The next step of the assembly effort is to carefully lay out all the pieces and put the border in place.

At my house our kids race to see who can find the corner pieces of the puzzle. It is from these corner pieces that we define and shape the remainder of our assembly effort.

Although we have not often discussed this, I see the goals and objectives of the USACE Campaign Plan, the SWD Implementation Plan, the SWL Operations Plan and YOUR individual Performance Plans as the corner pieces of our corporate puzzle.

Each of these plans help us to shape our collective efforts for achieving the desired end state for our organization. They each provide guidance and assign responsibility. Not only do they shape the puzzle but they also help to hold it together.

Without a clear understanding of how to get to our desired end state, and the structure to hold it together, most likely we will never arrive.

No plan is complete without all the pieces. In my analogy each employee represents a piece of the corporate puzzle.

Have you ever assembled a puzzle only to find that one or two pieces are missing? This past Christmas my son and I assembled a puzzle and we temporarily misplaced one of the pieces (it fell off the table and onto the floor). His comment to me was that the missing piece made

the entire puzzle worthless.

Although this may have been the ravings of a nine-year old boy, the truth of his remark struck a chord in my mind. Each employee in this district represents a piece of our puzzle.


If any one person is not there, or their efforts undervalued, it makes the entire effort incomplete. YOU are important. Your role is critical to our success.

How will YOU help us go to GREAT and remain built to last?

It is the job of district leadership to help you understand the role you have in making our organization great. It is also the role of our leadership to ensure you understand how your efforts contribute to achieving our desired end state.

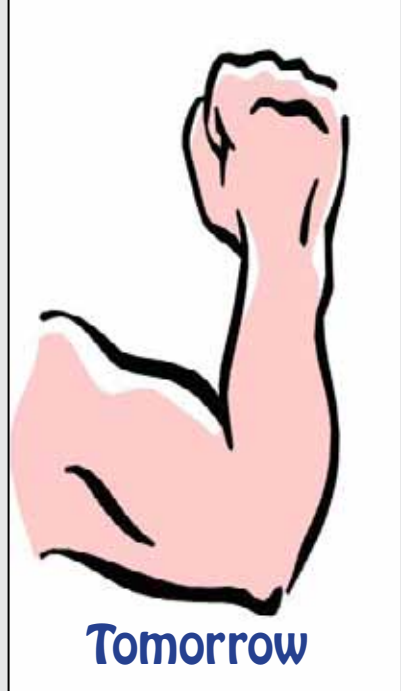
In Little Rock District we are in a period of unprecedented growth. As we take on new missions and expand into new areas it is critical we remain focused on the right box top.

In each of the four vision areas shown above, you have a role to play, regardless of where you are on the team or in the depth chart. Make a difference and don't fall off the table. We need you to make our effort complete.

As always, I want to thank you for what you do. Every day in this organization has been a blessing to me personally. The professionalism and enthusiasm I see every day is a source of inspiration. Keep up the great work. Your reputation is building every day. 

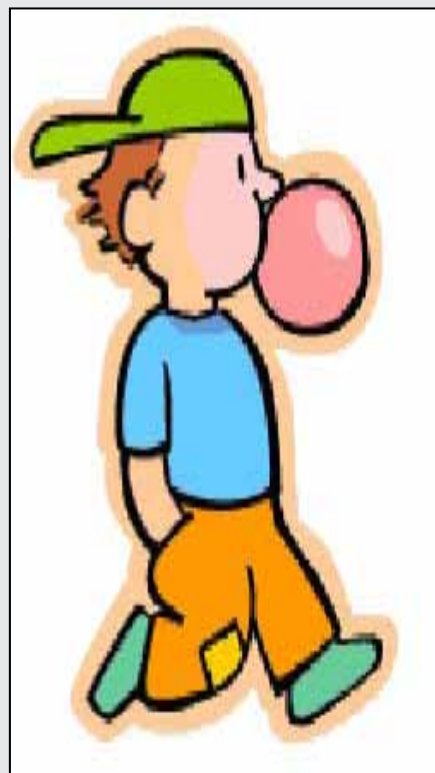
## PROCRASTINATORS!

**LET'S UNITE...**



P.J. Spaul reminded me that last week was both Procrastination Week and National Bubble Gum Week. It's a running joke in Little Rock that I'm always the last commander to submit a column and so our PAO staff wanted to ensure I was aware of these national celebrations. In reality I was indeed stuck and putting this off until the last minute...again. So the shoe fits. Sorry Cheri!

--  
**Col. Ed Jackson**





# Kaw Lake ready for summer with refurbished facilities

**By Sara Goodeyon**  
**Tulsa District Public Affairs**

**K**aw Lake is open for early fishing and is ready to welcome visitors for the 2010 recreation season with more than \$1 million in renovations to facilities damaged by years of annual flooding.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spent \$1.3 million in supplemental funding to install new toilets, pave flood prone areas, and repair several hundred feet of shoreline and protect it from future flooding.

Much of the work was done at Coon Creek where toilet capacity was almost doubled with the installation of a new shower/toilet building that replaces the 1970's era facility that had been flooded repeatedly since original construction, said Jim Anderson, lead ranger. New toilets have also been built at the Sarge Creek Cove area.

Campsites are currently available for over-night camping on a first-come, first-served basis. The new toilet facilities will be available for use in time for campers this summer.



Photo by Sam Skaggs

Above, a section of shoreline at Kaw Lake is sloped and rip-rap is placed there to repair flood damage. At right, a new toilet facility is lowered into place.




Most of the toilets were moved to higher elevations so most of them won't flood at all, and the one at Coon Creek will flood less often, said Anderson.

Paving operations were conducted at the boat ramp areas at Osage Cove, McFadden Cove and Coon Creek, and paving work is in progress at Washunga Bay, said Anderson. Also at the McFadden Cove camping area, the park circulatory roads and all camp pads have been resurfaced.

A section of shoreline at Coon Creek that had significant erosion from flooding was sloped, and rip-rap was placed there to protect

the shoreline from future flooding.

"It's pretty much an annual thing to have some shoreline damage at Kaw. Some campsites have been lost at Coon Creek and there was danger of losing more campsites and circulatory roads had this work not been done," said Anderson. "The supplemental funds helped pay for work that saved campsites and roadways at Kaw."

Kaw Lake is located in north central Oklahoma, on the Arkansas River, and offers anglers excellent opportunities to catch crappie and Blue Catfish. 



Lt. Col. Eugene Snyman with James Bavidio, Randy Beauchamp, and Steve Isaacs at the welcoming ceremony held at district headquarters in late February.

## Welcome Back!

Tulsa District employees gathered at district headquarters February 26 to welcome home coworkers who had deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Six district employees recently returned from deployments in support of Overseas Contingency Operations; their spouses were also honored during the ceremony.

Lt. Col. Eugene Snyman, the district's deputy commander, congratulated them and stressed the importance of their family members' support during the deployment.

Returning Tulsa District employees are Stephan Isaacs, James Bavidio, Randy Beauchamp, Bob Owens, Aaron Goldner, and Georgia Lewis.

# Beginning the long goodbye



Tulsa district commander, Col. Anthony Funkhouser met with eastern area employees at a town hall meeting on March 11 at the Keefeton Volunteer Fire Department in Keefeton, OK.

After eating a meal of barbeque brisket and sides that was prepared by fire department volunteers, Funkhouser, who is leaving the Tulsa District in June, said goodbye and presented his commander's coin to the eastern area personnel. Funkhouser was then presented a Corps of Engineers castle coat rack, made of eastern red cedar, which was signed on the reverse side by the employees in attendance.

Courtesy photo



---

## ***"Emergency"*** continued from page 14

---

because every year there are so many who could very easily be recognized. And grateful that the accomplishments of Team Galveston and all those supporting our District are also recognized by this award."

Marinos, who is a Galveston native and graduate of Texas A&M University, has been with the Galveston District for 27 years and Emergency Management chief for 18. He has supported all District emergency operations since Hurricane Alicia in 1983, and considers Hurricane Rita in 2005 as one of the most significant.

"Not only was Rita a major hurricane," he said, "it affected two states and strategic-port facilities in Beaumont. Additionally, our response resources were limited due to a significantly larger simultaneous response to Katrina."

From his vantage point of having been in-

involved in both Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Ike, Marinos saw several differences.

"From my perspective, Ike was much smoother," he said. "During Ike, evacuation to our alternate Emergency Operations Center at Addicks was improved to the point we were able to stand up non-emergency teams to continue the District's routine work. We had more survey assets for a quicker assessment of channels and we had improved communications with our survey teams and our port partners."

Marinos also pointed out that the District had many more employees directly impacted by Hurricane Ike, with most having damages to homes and residences.

"As a result," he said, "the Fort Worth District held lead on the FEMA mission much longer (almost a month) to allow our team to take care of family issues. Also, Rita did not

cause significant damage to hurricane protection projects, whereas Ike did."

Marinos himself sustained heavy damage to his personal property, and could not live in his home for almost one year. In fact, he lived in 15 different places after Hurricane Ike, waiting for his home to be repaired. How did he cope with these challenges?

"The Army's Safe Haven Program and the support from co-workers and the command staff were tremendous," he said. "I also had the support of family and friends."

As testament to his strong support of the District and its emergency operations, Marinos has received numerous awards, including the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal, Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and three Commander's Awards for Civilian Service.





# Corps and local partners celebrate reopening of Dana Peak Park

**Story and photo by Randy Cephus  
Fort Worth District Public Affairs**

**I**n late May 2007, Stillhouse Hollow and Belton Lakes flooded and remained that way for approximately four months.

This resulted in the destruction of most of the recreational infrastructure, including roads, campsites, picnic sites, restrooms, pavilions, docks and thousands of trees.

The flood received vast media coverage and congressional interest because of the quality of life and economic impacts that these lakes have on the local communities of Belton, Harker Heights, Fort Hood and Killeen.

On March 5 the Fort Worth District and approximately 100 partners celebrated the last facility at these two lakes to re-open since the infamous floods of 2007 during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Dana Peak Park in Harker Heights, Texas.

"This is a community's park" said Col. Richard J. Muraski Jr., commander of the Fort Worth District Army Corps of Engineers. "This is the city of Belton's and the city of Harker Heights' park."

Dana Peak Park encompasses an area to-



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., Commander of the Fort Worth District is flanked by Belton Mayor, Jim Covington (left) and Rep. John Carter, Round Rock (right) and Harker Heights Mayor, Ed Mullen during a ribbon cutting ceremony March 5 symbolizing the official reopening of Dana Peak Park in Harker Heights, Texas.

taling more than 600 acres. Park features include one pavilion, 33 campsites, 37 picnic sites, five restrooms, a swimming beach and a playground.

There have been numerous events of various types hosted here over the past several years including family gatherings, fishing tourna-

ments, scouting events, hiking and equestrian events, cross country meets, triathlons and company and unit parties.

After the floods receded many local residents and organizations volunteered to remove debris to get the park back into shape. Dead trees, trash and animal remains were among the items that needed to be cleared before any major park renovations could begin.

"There is just as much sweat equity as there was money," said Rep. John Carter, Round Rock, during remarks as he thanked the many volunteers who helped with the clean up after the floods.

Harker Heights Mayor Ed Mullen and Belton Mayor Jim Covington also provided remarks during the ceremony.

Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lakes offer eight day use park areas and 275 campsites in six campgrounds, generating over \$900,000 in fee revenues while serving nearly 3.5 million visitors in 2006, the last normal year of lake operations.

"More people visit here than Mount Rushmore and that is pretty cool," said Muraski.


The Fort Worth District's Operations and Maintenance program includes 25 multi-purpose reservoirs, three hydropower plants, and 340 recreation areas which receive over 25 million visitors annually. 



Photo by Clay Church

## **Public meetings held**

During a tour of the proposed area that will be inundated by the proposed Lake Columbia in Cherokee and Smith counties in Texas several of the members of the team stopped to ensure the exact location. Pictured left to right is Jesse Owens with Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., with Skipper Scott and Brent Jasper from the Fort Worth District Regulatory Branch. Public meetings were held March 1 and 2 in Jacksonville, Texas.





# SWT Readiness planning

**LT. COL. GENE SNYMAN**  
**DEPUTY COMMANDER, TULSA DISTRICT**

**T**ulsa District is now well into OPLAN execution and all divisions and departments are contributing directly to the District's effort to move from good to great.

This year's Leadership Development Program level two (LDP2) participants have been working to develop a product to assist supervisors with the task of ensuring all employees understand the linkage between the Campaign Plan (USACE), IPLAN (SWD), and OPLAN (SWT) and how each person contributes.

Last year, emphasis was placed on working Campaign Plan objectives and actions into performance objectives. This year we are working to make the Campaign Plan more personally understood in order to achieve a certain unity of effort across the board. In a preliminary survey conducted on 90 random SWT personnel, familiarity with the Campaign Plan and OPLAN and how their job


related to the same was about a five on a scale on one to ten.

The intent is for this tool to be available to supervisors prior to and during the interim performance discussions they have with employees to facilitate the process. It is intended to be tailored to each employee and to give supervisors and employees some practical examples of contributions employees make towards each of the OPLAN tasks. Supervisors can delete tasks not relevant to a particular employee and certainly add their own ideas to help each employee visualize their part in the big plan.

In addition to an overall explanation of linkage between echelons, the briefing will take each SWT OPLAN task and link it to the IPLAN and Campaign Plan. Each task will include the vision statement "We have achieved great when..." and include some

example employee roles.

In early June, when the interim performance counseling period closes, a follow-up survey will be conducted to determine how effective the tool was in increasing District awareness.

I encourage all supervisors to take full advantage of this tool during upcoming performance counseling. I also encourage all employees to take advantage of this effort to assist the leadership in working towards a more focused effort at improvement across the District by truly understanding how the plan applies to them. Finally, I want to thank this year's LDP2 class for their excellent work and wish them all the best in their own demonstrated individual and group effort at moving from good to great! 

---

## Natural resource staff gets fire fighting training

---

**By Dean Roberts**  
**Park Ranger**  
**Eufaula Lake Office**

---

Natural resource specialists from Tenkiller, Canton, Fort Gibson, Wister, and Eufaula projects attended Prescribed Fire Training hosted by the Department of Natural Resource Management of Oklahoma State University. The training was held at Lake Eufaula and was tailored specifically to meet agency requirements as set forth in EP-1130-2-540.

Students were taught how weather

plays an important role in the behavior of fire, how to conduct a pre-fire safety brief, how to forecast smoke dispersion and manage its impacts, benefits of fire on the ecosystem, how to mop up and patrol during a fire event, and proper communication techniques.

The unique aspect of this training was that following the classroom session, application of fire behavior was taught first hand in the field. Two prescribed fires were conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday of the training with students participating in different roles.


Top right, Park Rangers Josh Mathis and Emily Coffin lighting a head fire during a prescribed fire. Bottom right, fire fighting equipment training. 

Photo by Dean Roberts



# Spotlight on the Galveston District's Brownsville Resident Office

By Isidro Reyna  
Galveston District Public Affairs

**T**ucked away at the southernmost point in Texas is a small Corps of Engineers office with a large mission – a mission which keeps America's waterways open for navigation and provides construction for local governmental agencies.

With a full-time staff of nine employees and an additional augmented staff, the Galveston District's Brownsville Resident Office makes it possible for industry to succeed in the Rio Grande Valley by dredging miles of channels and waterways in South Texas and building essential facilities for its partners.

"The Brownsville Resident Office is one of two resident offices that fall under the District's Southern Area Office," said Resident Engineer, Kenneth (Chip) Worley. "Our area of operation spans across Texas' Rio Grande Valley."

The Resident Office is responsible for dredging approximately 62 miles of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from Port Isabel to Mud Flats, which is north of Port Mansfield, according to Worley.

"We've recently dredged 35 sections from Port Isabel to Mud Flats and have also dredged the Port Mansfield cut," said Worley. "We completed dredging of the South Padre Island Jetty Channel which provided beach nourishment to the island and we're continuing on to the Brownsville Ship Channel, a project that will remove shoaling responsible for a 36-foot draft restriction and restore the channel to its 44-foot authorized depth."

The Brownsville Resident Office maintains approximately 21 miles of deep draft channel in Brownsville, which supports industrial and manufacturing industry and 28 miles of shallow draft channels in the Harlingen Channel, which primarily sup-



Photo by Isidro Reyna

The Galveston District's Brownsville Resident Office, located at the tip of South Texas, plays a key role in America's well being by keeping waterways open for navigation and providing construction for local governmental agencies.

ports agricultural industry. Additionally, the office oversees dredging of the Port Isabel Small Boat Channel, which is approximately 5 miles of shallow draft and the Port Isabel Turning Basin, a deep draft channel.

"For this area, the ports bring an enormous amount of commerce and jobs," said

construction of 34 miles of border fence along the Texas and Mexico border in Cameron County. The Resident Office is responsible for maintenance contracts covering portions of border fence maintenance in Hidalgo and Cameron counties, supporting the Department of Homeland Security within the U.S. Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector.

"We also support the Port Isabel Detention Center," said Worley. "We have a constant business relationship with the detention facility -- it's a big compound with several dormitories, medical facilities, power generation equipment, administration and their own public works. It's good to be in the area to meet with them routinely and understand what their needs are."

The Brownsville Resident Office has overseen the construction of Border Patrol stations and has projects in both Rio Grande City and Falfurrias, Texas. The Resident Office is also managing a \$12 million project to construct a U.S. Army Reserve Center in Brownsville.

**"For this area, the ports bring an enormous amount of commerce and jobs."**

**-Kenneth (Chip) Worley,  
Brownsville Resident Engineer**

Worley.

Worley is responsible for supervising field staff, project engineers, quality assurance representatives and acts as the administrative contracting officer on the construction contracts for the Resident Office's area of responsibility.

One of those contracts includes the con-

# Developmental assignments benefit SWL

**By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard**  
**Little Rock District Public Affairs**

**T**hey say necessity is the mother of invention. The saying held true when Little Rock created three real estate developmental assignments to help with a manpower shortage. The program ultimately provided the district with three well-rounded individuals in the field who are now better equipped to deal with real estate issues.

Realty Specialist Becky Shortt of Table Rock Lake, along with Park Rangers Cheryl Wanko of Table Rock Lake and Jason Presley of Greers Ferry Lake, participated in the 4 ½ month developmental assignment in the district Office.

Don Balch, Little Rock's chief of real estate, explained that the participants were incorporated into all areas of the real estate program. This included military recruiting facilities, government housing, Base Realignment and Closure issues, acquisitions, real property accountability, appraisals and management and disposal.

The trio also attended all meetings pertaining to real estate issues within the district and worked under the mentorship of senior realty specialists.

"When I learned that Don Balch was offering a developmental assignment opportunity," Wanko said, "I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to learn more about real estate and acquire knowledge on how it fits into the 'big picture' of the Corps' mission."

Wanko said Joe Craig was her mentor, and he "put forth such a tremendous effort to teach me and ensured all my questions were answered. He made sure I learned as much as possible while I was there."

During her training, Wanko created a Geographical Information

Systems spatial database to plot and record outstanding encroachment locations at Table Rock and Beaver lakes.

Shortt was new to the real estate business but had served as a park ranger for several years at Table Rock Lake prior to accepting the realty specialist job there.

"I walked into the Real Estate office as the newest realty specialist 12 years to the day from when I walked into the Table Rock Project Office as the newest student ranger," Shortt said. "I remember thinking, what could I possibly see in Little Rock that I haven't already seen as a ranger on Table Rock? Long story short, I had no idea how much I didn't know."

Shortt said she "was blown away" that in her 12 years as a ranger she was not aware of how much support the real estate teams provided to the Armed Forces. She went on to say she was equally impressed by how well the team worked together to accomplish their military mission.

Presley worked under the tutelage of Realty Specialist Ellyce Best. He acknowledged that he was limited in his real estate knowledge and thought this assignment would help him in his daily duties at Greers Ferry Lake.

"When I arrived at Greers Ferry Project Office in 2004 I started working with shoreline management, and real estate issues kept arising," Presley said. "The issues ranged from land use outgrants to encroachments and marina issues as well. My knowledge was very limited. As the years progressed, I picked up on bits and pieces, but I knew this opportunity would be a great chance for me to further my understanding and knowledge about real estate management."

All three participants agreed that the developmental assignment will help them to succeed in their current jobs, and they each said "they would highly recommend" this assignment to anyone who works with real estate issues, such as those in the natural resource and recreation fields.

"SWL real estate hopes to continue the program in October for another developmental opportunity to improve on the teamwork with our Operations Division, jointly addressing problems as a team," Balch said.



## Employee Assistance Program

**Healthy bodies, sound minds and a safe place to work**

**1-800-222-0364**

**Federal Occupational Health**

**Department of Health and Human Services**



# Basket weaving 101 held at district regulatory office

**Story and photos by Randy Cephus**  
**Fort Worth District Public Affairs**

**T**he Fort Worth District's Regulatory Office is filled with a blend of engineers, biologists, and environmental scientists. Being in an office staffed with so much brain power can at times be overwhelming. So, there are times when one must get back to the basics.

That is where Darwin Messer, project manager for the Sabine Mining Company Rusk Environmental Impact Statement project comes in. Messer decided to give the office a class on basket weaving during lunch one day as a morale boosting initiative. We'll call it Basket Weaving 101.

Messer, a native of Leburn, Ky., has been with the Corps for nine years and the Fort Worth District for about seven months. His impression of the Fort Worth District is that it is a very busy place filled with dedicated professionals who get things done.

He started making baskets more than 30 years and got his start as a youngster while spending summer vacations with his grandfather.

"It takes approximately eight to 10 days to complete a basket. It cannot be completed in one sitting...there is a process," asserted Messer.

"First, you cut down a three to six inch diameter White Oak sapling. Then you split the wood into sections called billets and smaller pieces called splits. Next, you take drawknives and pocketknives to whittle and shape the wood," said Messer, as he split and shaved the oak in front of a captive audience.

Messer then demonstrated the process of making splits, the sections of wood used to make the lattice work that is woven in an over-and-under fashion.

"The next step to making a basket is the assembly process. Here, you have to keep the wood moist so it will maintain its flexibility," continued Messer.

According to Messer, basket weaving can be a fun hobby, but is also a way to relieve stress.

Besides his passion for basket weaving, Messer's other hobbies include coaching his



Mike Happold of the Fort Worth District Regulatory Office looks through Darwin Messer's photo album displaying various basket styles during a basket weaving demonstration in February.




(Above) Darwin Messer, project manager for the Sabine Mining Company Rusk EIS project displays a sample of a completed basket during a recent basket weaving demonstration conducted at the District's Regulatory Office. (Left) Scott Kelly and Lisa Gomez look on as Darwin Messer demonstrates the proper technique for splitting wood during a recent basket weaving demonstration in the District's Regulatory Office.

son's basketball team and participating in his church mission.

"Now you let the basket dry. Finally, you need to form new splits to complete the basket," continued Messer.

Although he offers some of his products for sale, Messer's main satisfaction in making bas-

kets is the fact that he is carrying on a family tradition handed down from his grandfather.

"I am beginning to teach my son so that I can pass the tradition on to the next generation," concluded Messer. 

# Fourth graders enjoy Valentine's Day lunch with their Corps Pen Pals

**Story and photos by Denisha Braxton  
Fort Worth District Public Affairs**

**T**he fourth grade students at H.V. Helbing Elementary school, Fort Worth, Texas received more than the traditional cards and candy this Valentine's Day. The Fort Worth District Adopt-a-School Pen Pal program sponsored the annual Valentine's Day Luncheon in the school's auditorium on Feb. 19.

The students were greeted with friendly smiles from 70 Corps employees, ten faculty members, and 20 PTA members. Irma Morin, counselor, opened the event by welcoming everyone and thanking the Corps for organizing "yet another successful event". Corps employees enjoyed pizza, cake, and punch with their pen pals, while also solving a Valentine's Day word puzzle together.

"I'm having so much fun; I didn't think I would have so much in common with my Pen Pal!", said Xandria Garcia, 4th grade student at H.V. Helbing.

As the luncheon came to an end, the stu-




Students at H.V. Helbing Elementary choose their Valentine's Day gift bags as they leave the Valentine's Day Luncheon, Feb. 19.

dents homeroom teachers drew their names out of a hat to see which class would go first to pick out their Valentines gift bag and stuffed animal. The auditorium filled with loud sounds of excitement when the students heard their teacher's name called. They were

so excited about the event, the gifts, and most importantly meeting their pen pal.

"The children were so excited their Pen Pals were coming today. Now that it's over they don't want to leave", laughed Ms. Darla Jackson, 4th grade teacher.

The students were all smiles as they took pictures with their pen pals to capture the eventful luncheon. "I had a great time, I just want to be a positive role model and let them know if you pursue your dreams you will be successful". As everyone said their farewells, they talked about looking forward to the next pen pal letter they would receive.

"The simplest thing like a smile can change a student's life forever. The memories time well spent between Corps employees and H.V. Helbing students is a gift within itself and one that keeps giving", said Ebonie Graves, Equal Employment Opportunity trainee, Fort Worth District. 



Simon Ng, Program Analyst, Engineering and Construction Support Office and a fourth grade student enjoy pizza, laughter, and discuss future college opportunities at the luncheon.





# Delivering excellence

Col. David C. Weston  
Commander, Galveston District

Every month is a significant time for the Galveston District as we execute our mission, plan for the future, and deliver excellence to our customers and communities. But the past couple of months have been especially noteworthy for several reasons.

First, in February, our District observed its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary—a century plus of Building Strong! When this District was established on Galveston Island in 1880 it was truly a different world: Galveston was an economic and cultural powerhouse—the reason the District was established here to begin with—while Houston's star shown much dimmer. Today Houston is the nation's fourth largest metropolitan area, as well as its second largest coastal port, and a vital and powerful component of the Galveston District.

It was into this fourth largest metropolitan area that we stepped out in February to communicate the news that the Corps' Addicks and Barker dams have been designated extremely high risk.

This designation is primarily due to their locations in what is now developed areas of Houston, in addition to structural concerns in a couple of areas. However, neither of those risk factors means that Addicks and Barker dams are in imminent danger of failing, a fact that we needed to share openly and accurately with the greater Houston community.


Our briefings to Congressional staffers, local officials, neighborhood associations, the news media and the public informed them about the current situation as well as short term fixes (Interim Risk Reduction Measures) and our Dam Safety Modification Study. This information was vital to the local residents and property owners, and they responded

primarily with support and appreciation of the Corps' efforts to ensure the safety of our dams.

While that public outreach was going on in February, the District's senior leadership joined me in traveling to Washington D.C. to meet with our elected representatives and discuss the current status and future actions on District projects.

This annual trip is always an inspiring one, as it underlines the special relationship between the Corps of Engineers and Congress, the planning process, and how our projects get authorized and funded. That Corps planning process is virtually unknown to most Americans. The topic came up so often during the dam safety public outreach briefings that we added a slide presentation about the Corps planning process to the Addicks and Barker Web page, [www.AddicksandBarker.info](http://www.AddicksandBarker.info).

March was no less busy, with a multitude of undertakings that kept the District on its toes. One project that especially underscored our commitment to local communities was the beach nourishment of South Padre Island. The District dredged the inside jetty channel across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway into the main channel near South Padre Island, Texas, and then turned that work into a beneficial use project, just in time for Spring Break.

Also in March, we were honored to have the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, visit the Galveston District. His visit gave District employees an opportunity to interact with him first hand, as well the chance to recognize a few of our many, many outstanding team members. It was a great way to finish the first quarter of the year and welcome Spring! 



## Chief of Engineers visits Galveston

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited the Galveston District March 22-23. The general received district updates, held a Town Hall meeting for employees and honored outstanding team members as well.

Selma Hampshire, a budget officer with the district's Resource Management Office, holds a bear signed by Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp. The bear is a constant reminder of her son Fisher Hampshire, an Army private currently at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., who is training to become a combat engineer.



Photo by Courtney Brodbeck





**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Southwestern Division

**ON OR NEAR  
THE WATER,  
ALWAYS WEAR  
A LIFE JACKET.**



Courtesy photo

## **Big, buoyant heavy lifter**

In June, this giant floating crane will arrive in Little Rock District and become the largest crane in Southwestern Division and the second-largest crane in the Army Corps of Engineers. It has been constructed to perform maintenance and dewatering at Montgomery Point Lock and Dam on the lower McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The crane is undergoing final testing and outfitting at Conrad Industries Shipyard in Morgan City, La., and upon completion, it will be delivered to Little Rock's Pine Bluff Marine Terminal. The crane barge is 260 feet long. The pedestal-mounted Manitowoc 18,000 crane has a 200-foot boom and a capacity of up to 285 short tons. The lower deck houses a locker room, office, briefing room, showers, toilets, machinery room, work shop and storage. The main deck houses a restroom, generator room and the stud control room. The crane has been named after the late Mike Hendricks, who was the Pine Bluff Project Office operations manager.

# Profiles in Giving:

## The bonding of nature, horses and kids

**By Kristine Brown**  
*Natural Resources Specialist*  
*Galveston District*

**O**n March 11, students and teachers from Robert E. Lee High School in Houston joined the Harris County Constable Precinct 5 Mounted Patrol and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, for the first ever Aquatic Science Adventure at Noble Road Pond located in Barker Reservoir's George Bush Park.

Students join Bobber, the Corps' Water Safety mascot, Harris County Constable Precinct 5 Mounted Patrol and Learning for Life Champions and Transition programs of the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America at the Aquatic Science Adventure in George Bush Park.

Photo by Kristine Brown



The students were part of the Learning for Life Champions and Transition programs, which is a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America.

The school-based programs are presented as progressive lessons that assist educators in preparing youth for a productive role in the workplace environment and provide a special needs curriculum that teaches youth with mental disabilities and challenges the life skills they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

In 2009, the Champions and Transition curriculum modified educational objectives to expand environmental concepts by introducing animal science.

This year, deputies, under the direction of Sergeant D. Gaston, used their professional and personal connection with horses to entertain more than 36 local high school students at Barker Reservoir.

"It was a wonderful outlet for the kids to dispel their fears and anxieties and to form a connection with the horses," said Kristine Brown, a park ranger at Barker Reservoir.

The students also enjoyed a fishing event, hosted by the Corps of Engineers, Addicks Project Office, which focused on water safety and outdoor activities.

"It gives the students something to look forward to and get involved with and it makes them happy to be outside and be a kid," Brown said.

According to Ken Jacob from the Learning for Life Champions and Transition programs of the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts




Photo by Kristine Brown

A student from Robert E. Lee High School learns how to approach, pet and feed a horse at the first ever Aquatic Science Adventure at George Bush Park hosted by the Galveston District's Addicks Project Office.

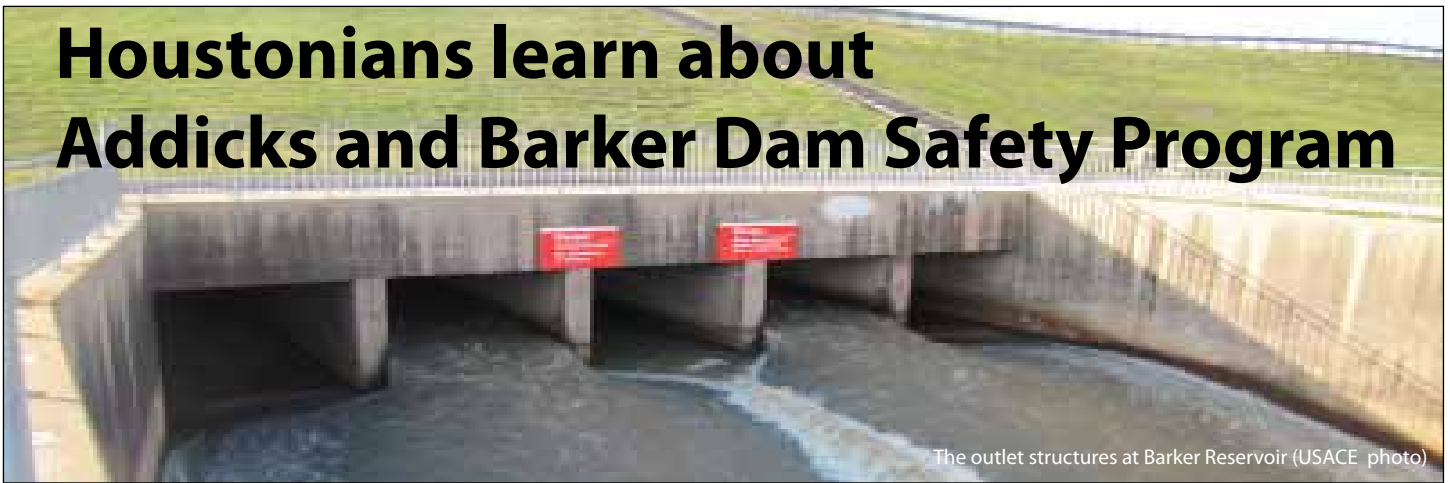
of America, these programs flourish as an educational model in and around the Greater Houston area.

"Their success and the lessons learned in fully implementing the programs continues to bring families something they eagerly want, developmental benefits that their children can learn from, enjoy and carry with them for the rest of their life," Jacob said.

"Equally important is the fact that this level of program growth and activities would not be possible without the generous commitment of time, resources, spirit, and dedication from local partners and volunteers dedicated to providing special needs youth with education, opportunities and life time experiences," he added. 



# Houstonians learn about Addicks and Barker Dam Safety Program



The outlet structures at Barker Reservoir (USACE photo)

**W**hen the Galveston District's Addicks and Barker dams were built in the 1940s in far west Harris County, the area was mostly farm land on the outskirts of the City of Houston.

The dams were built in response to devastating floods that hit Houston in 1929 and 1935, and their purpose was—and still is—to protect areas downstream of the dams along Buffalo Bayou.

Addicks and Barker have served the area well for more than 60 years, but changes brought about by residential development, industrial growth, and the effects of a multitude of factors on the structures themselves created a new set of circumstances for Addicks and Barker.

As a result of a recent Corps of Engineers evaluation of its dams nationwide, several issues were identified at Addicks and Barker, designating them as extremely high risk. This designation is primarily due to their close proximity to the Houston metropolitan area and the potential consequences in the event of a dam failure, according to Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander.

"First and foremost, these dams are not in imminent danger of failing," Weston said. "Addicks and Barker are essentially dry reservoirs the great majority of the time, and they undergo daily, weekly, and annual inspection and monitoring. The fact that they protect and are a part of the nation's fourth largest metropolitan area makes the consequences in the event of a dam failure unacceptable. The Corps' primary objec-

tive is to maintain public safety by ensuring that the dams we own and operate are safe and risks to the public are minimized."

With the designation also came the need to inform officials and the public. Briefings were


provided to Congressional staff representatives, local Houston, Harris County, and Fort Bend County officials, neighborhood associations in the Houston area, and the Houston news media in early February, and four public meet-

ings were conducted to inform those living in the areas both downstream and upstream of Addicks and Barker. A Web site was also created to ensure that current information is available to residents and property owners in the affected areas.

Weston also noted during the briefings and public meetings that this designation gives Addicks and Barker priority funding for any repairs and studies.

"The Corps of Engineers assessment actually moves Addicks and Barker to the front of the line for funding for any necessary repairs and studies," he said. "We are looking at two areas of concern, the outlet structure and the ends of the dams, and have already begun short term solutions, called Interim Risk Reduction Measures, to limit the risk. We will also be looking at long term solutions under a Dam Safety Modification Study.

"Addicks and Barker have been protecting the Houston metropolitan area for more than 60 years, and the Corps of Engineers is working with our local Flood Control and Emergency Management partners to ensure that they continue to do so," Weston said.

For more information, visit the Addicks and Barker Web site, [www.AddicksAndBarker.info](http://www.AddicksAndBarker.info). 



USACE photo

Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, briefs local officials about Addicks and Barker reservoirs at the Texas National Guard Armory located in Barker Reservoir.



USACE photo

Richard Long, Natural Resources Manager for Addicks and Barker reservoirs, discusses the Corps' Dam Safety Program during one of four public meetings held in Houston in February.





## Leadership Russellville

Courtesy photo

Allison Smedley of Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office and the other nine members of the "2010 Leadership Russellville" class recently were cited by the Arkansas House of Representatives for participating in the program designed to help develop local business professionals. The citation was presented Feb. 24 at the State Capitol by two state representatives and a state senator. In the front row from left is Carrie Phillips of Arkansas Tech University, Smedley, Misty Housley of Simmons First Bank, State Rep. Andrea Lea, Madelyn Ginsberg of Pope County Quorum Court and State Rep. Robert Dale. In the middle row is Mary Wood of the U.S. Forest Service, Donny Rogers of Arvest Bank, Syr Johnathan Duncan of the U.S. Forest Service and Bob Veach of the Peel Law Firm. In the back row is State Sen. Michael Lamoureux, Jason Oliver of Arkansas Nuclear One and Dusty Hampton of Tyson Foods. The class, due to graduate in June, tour various businesses, industries, health, non-profit and government agencies, as well as create a project that benefits the local populous. This class's project focused on fire prevention and smoke alarm awareness across Pope County. The group created a River Valley Residential Smoke Alarm Program that provided fire alarms to needy residents through a partnership with the Russellville Fire Department.



Photo by Rick Bradford

## Districts team up

Natural Resource Specialist Carlton Bailey from Lake Tenkiller in Tulsa District discusses water safety information Jan. 23 with a family at the 2010 Boat Show in Fort Smith, Ark. Rangers from Tulsa's Eufaula and Tenkiller lakes and Little Rock's Ozark and Blue Mountain lakes worked together to present water and boating safety information to about 500 people. For the second year in a row, Little Rock's Rick Bradford and Tulsa's Rick Smither collaborated to have participants from both districts on hand to provide information about Oklahoma and Arkansas lakes. Children from both states came to the show on this border town and discussed water and boating safety with the rangers. The teams also provided information about recreation, environmental stewardship, hydropower and navigation. Other Tulsa participants were Craig Robbins, Eric Summors, Cathi Carr, Randy Shannon and Cory Bolin. The other participants from Little Rock were Lee Kirkpatrick, Tommy Greenfield and Jared Brasher.

**MARCH IS... WOMEN'S HISTORY &  
IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH**

# *Pacesetter* Points

## **Congratulations**

**Tom Henry** has been selected as the Power Plant Specialist at the Keystone Power Plant. Previous positions that Tom has held include Power Plant Senior Electrician at Keystone and details as Power Plant Specialist, and Work Leader.

**Jason Person**, Natural Resources Specialist, Oologah Lake Office, and his wife had their second child. Luke Everett Person was born weighing 9 lbs 2 ozs & 20 3/4 inches in length.

**Bill Knight**, regional logistics liaison, joined SWD headquarters Feb. 2. Knight comes to the division from Fort Lee, Va., where he served as the Director of Logistics, U.S. Army Garrison Command.



Bill Knight

**Karen Robinson**, supervisory budget analyst, joined Resource Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters Feb 14. Robinson comes to the division from the Corps' European District where she

served as a lead program analyst.



Karen Robinson

**Dawn Rice** has been selected as the new Civil Works Project Manager in PPMD. She will be focusing on Civil Works ARRA projects. With her experience in Civil Works as well as her experience oversees in Germany and Iraq she will be a nice addition to the PPMD Family. She is also a certified Project Manager Professional as well as a graduate of SWT's Leadership Development Program.

**Mr. and Mrs. Craig Robbins** welcomed their second child, Hadlee Lake Robbins. Hadlee is also welcomed by big sister Dailee.



Hadlee Lake Robbins

**Cindy Jones** of the Galveston District was selected for the GS-12 Budget Analyst position in resource management.

Little Rock is pleased to announce the selection of **David Glorit** for the project engineer position at the Ozark Construction Office. In the position, he will oversee the project office staff in the day-to-day management on the Ozark Powerhouse Major Rehabilitation project, and he will be an integral part of the Joint Resident Office organization that we've established with Tulsa District to provide overarching administration of the projects at Ozark and Webbers Falls. He is currently assigned as a project engineer with the Corps at Weisbaden, Germany. He is a mechanical engineer by degree and a registered professional engineer in Georgia. He brings a wealth of Corps construction experience from quality assurance, office engineering and construction management.

Little Rock is pleased to congratulate **Al Rein** on his selection as chief of Military Programs Branch. He brings extensive military construction project and program management expertise, strong regional and national relationships and a track record of successful project execution to the position. He will be a tremendous asset to the district as we continue working together to enhance our project delivery services for our local, regional and national customers.

Little Rock is pleased to

congratulate **Bruce Watson** on his selection as chief of Cost Engineering Section in Design Branch. He brings extensive experience in construction and engineering processes, strong district and regional relationships and successful project development team execution. His leadership skills will be a great asset to the branch management team.

## **Arrivals**

**Tyrone Crear** arrived at the Galveston District Jan. 19 as an area engineer for the Southern Area Office. In this position, Crear will provide contract administration and quality assurance for civil works and military construction.

**Edgardo Perez-Cosme** joined the Galveston District Feb. 5 as a project engineer for the Sinton Army Reserve Center and assistant project engineer for the Kingsville Army Reserve Center. Prior to joining the District, the Bayamon, Puerto Rico native worked as a project engineer and office engineer for the Baltimore District at Fort Belvoir, Va.

**Michael Rawls** arrived at the Galveston District Jan. 25 as a retired annuitant office engineer for the Northern Area Office. In 2005, Rawls was a construction manager for the Construction Branch, and he also performed disaster work as a rehired annuitant after Hurricane Rita for the District in 2006.

**Mark Garza** joined the Galveston District Jan. 4 as a biologist in the Environmen-

tal Branch. Prior to joining the District, the San Antonio native worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a fisheries biologist at Klamath National Forest in northern California.

**Gary Chow** joined the Galveston District Jan. 19 as a technical specialist/manager. In this position, he has overall responsibility for the District's geotechnical and coastal engineering programs. Prior to joining the District, the Hong Kong native worked at Arcadis US, Inc. in Houston as a principal engineer.

**James Nicholson** arrived at the Galveston District Dec. 21 as a construction control representative for the Southern Area Office in Corpus Christi. Prior to joining the District, the Gulf Breeze, Fla. native worked as a safety superintendent for a general contractor in Fla.

## Departures

**Russell Malahay** departed the District Jan. 2 to work for the Little Rock District as a natural resources specialist.

**Andy Frank**, program manager, Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, departed the division in February to accept a Military Program manager position on the SWD Regional Integration Team,



Andy Frank

headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Ana Ortega**, program man-

# Former Southwestern Division commander dies

**Maj. Gen. Hugh G. Robinson, USA (Ret.)**, 78, died March 1 in Dallas, Texas, with funeral services conducted March 6.



Maj. Gen. Hugh G. Robinson

Robinson served as the Commander, Southwestern Division, from 1980 to 1983, retiring from the U.S. Army during the SWD Change of Command Ceremony.

Before coming to the division, he was deputy

director of Civil Works in Corps headquarters and held a wide range of command and staff positions.

In 1965, he was appointed as military aide to then President Lyndon B. Johnson, the first African-American to hold that position.

He was a 1954 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and held a master's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1959).

ager, Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, was recently selected for a program manager position, Strategic Integration Branch, Military Programs, at HQUSACE.

**Maxie McAlpin**, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, accepted a contract specialist intern position with Fort Worth District in February.

**Regina Lee**, Resource Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, departed SWD in February for a position with the Social Security Administration.

## Retirement

**Sam Patterson**, Keystone Powerhouse Specialist, is retiring April 29 after 27+ years of service for the federal government. Sam has contributed greatly to the Tulsa District and will be missed.

**Jeris Sample**, Construction Branch, retired February 26, after 39 years of federal service.

**Paul Shockley**, Conservation Specialist, Northern Area Office is retiring effective 1 March 2010. Paul has served Tulsa District for 30+ years working at the following Projects: Wister, Tenkiller, John Redmond, Oologah, and presently the Northern Area Office.

Little Rock's **Louis Garvin**,

a welder at the Russellville Project Office, retired after 10 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Frank Estrada**, a welder at the Russellville Project Office, retired after 33 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Elmania Donald**, a facility maintenance inspector at the Russellville Project Office, retired after 35 years of civil service.

## Condolences

Lee Roy "Buddy" Sullivan, 83, father of **Linda Sullivan**, human resources specialist, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, passed away March 8 in Weatherford, Texas.

**Joseph Large**, an engineer intern in E&C Division, Tulsa District, suffered the passing of his mother, Betty Faye Large, 80, engineer, February 10.

Clarence (Bud) Quinn, father of **Maureen Weller**, Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting - Dallas, passed away March 16 in Bel Air, Md. A funeral mass was conducted March 19 in Hickory, Md.

Sincere condolences to **Luis Saenz** of the Galveston District, whose mother, Yolanda R. Saenz, passed away Feb. 16.

Sincere condolences to **Norma Garcia**, whose mother, Antonia "Toni" Ser-rato, passed away Jan. 29.

Jesse Bray, father-in-law to Little Rock's **Lola Holt** of Con-

tracting Office passed March 3. He was 61 years of age, when he went to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our prayers and thoughts are with Lola and her family. It will be hard to let him go, but we know it was God's will and it had to be done accordingly. Mr. Bray was loved by many and will be truly missed.

**Glyn Holmes**, 89, of Little Rock passed away Jan. 20. He was the father-in-law of Little Rock's Barbara Holmes of Real Estate. Glyn proudly served his country in the Navy during WWII. Papaw, as he was called, was known for his good sense of humor and his love for his family. He loved to garden and fish. He enjoyed watching sports on television. Glyn attended Mabelvale Church of Christ.

Rosie Holland, 87, of Wynne passed away Feb. 16. She is the grandmother to **James (Jay) Woods** of the Public Affairs Office. Ms. Holland was a long time resident of Cross County. She was a retired supervisor for Levi Strauss and Company. She was a member of Fitzgerald Baptist Church.

Former Little Rock (retired) member, **Gene Denton**, passed away Feb. 13. 